



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**BYLC**

Bangladesh  
Youth Leadership  
Center



## MISSION

Our mission is to build connections among youth from diverse backgrounds, equip them with leadership skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

## VISION

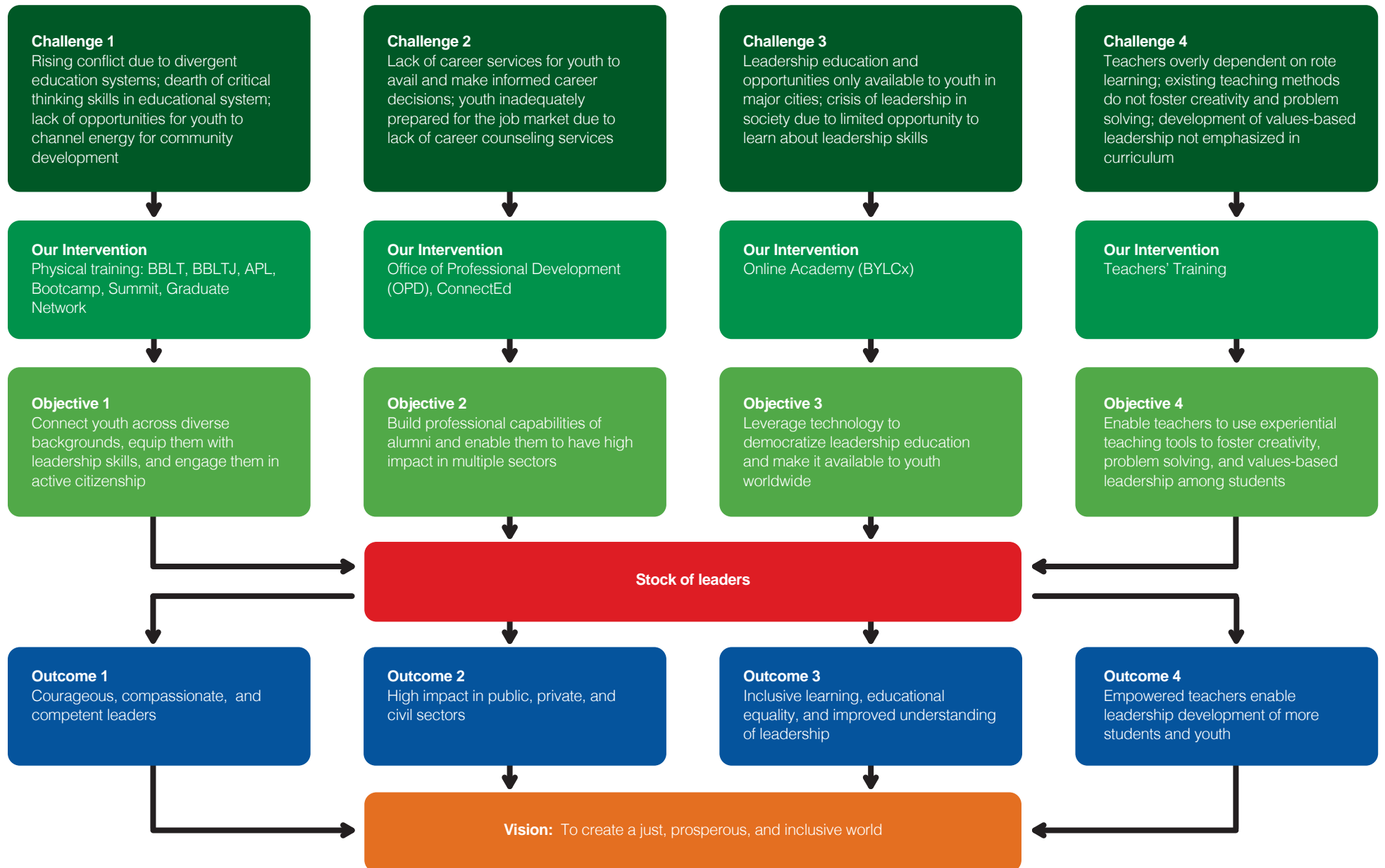
A prosperous, just, and inclusive world driven by courageous, compassionate, and competent leaders.

## ABOUT BYLC

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), the country's first leadership institute, provides a platform for young people to develop leadership skills and participate in the country's development process. A cornerstone of BYLC's approach involves uniting youth from diverse socio-economic and educational backgrounds because effective leadership requires the capacity to embrace diversity and pluralism. Through this process of empowering young people to act on behalf of issues they care about deeply, BYLC aims to strengthen prosperity, justice, and inclusiveness in society.



# THEORY OF CHANGE



# YEAR IN REVIEW



- BYLC celebrated its ninth anniversary
- BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) hosted its fourth cricket league
- The eleventh Building Bridges through Leadership Training Junior (BBLTJ) program concluded
- The Office of Professional Development (OPD) hosted a youth-led roundtable discussion on Bangladesh's competitive job market

- Masterclass for leadership instructors was organized
- BYLC hosted a retreat for Campus Ambassadors in Mymensingh

- The eighteenth Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT) program commenced
- BGN organized a run to celebrate Independence Day
- BYLC inaugurated its operations in Chattogram with a new team and office
- Roundtable discussion on 'Reimagining education for a rapidly changing world' organized at the Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry with 17 principals from Bangla and English medium schools and madrassas
- The first BYLC Social, which focussed on gender equality, was held on International Women's Day

# YEAR IN REVIEW



- BYLC's Youth Leading Change event, where 10 BYLC graduates spoke about their work and initiatives, was held
- New Campus Ambassadors from 40 institutes were selected to represent BYLC
- BYLC Social on the challenges and opportunities in the education system was organized
- The twentieth OPD workshop was held in Rajshahi

- The twentieth Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) workshop concluded
- The eighteenth BBLT program concluded

- BYLC hosted a farewell program for Leoni Cuelenaere, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh
- BYLC Alumni Iftar was held in Dhaka and Chattogram
- The nineteenth BBLT program commenced in Chattogram

# YEAR IN REVIEW



- BYLC Social on the quota reform movement was organized
- The twelfth BBLTJ program commenced
- The 'Desh Amar Dayitto Amar' van started its journey to conduct the Youth Matters Survey across eight divisions

- BYLC organized the 'Running with Purpose' 5k run with the theme 'Safe Spaces for Youth' in Hatirjheel
- BYLC hosted a farewell dinner for Marcia Bernicat, Ambassador of the United States of America to Bangladesh
- The twelfth BBLTJ program concluded

- BYLCx launched 25 online courses and a new platform focusing on 21st century skills
- The twentieth BBLT program commenced
- The nineteenth BBLT program concluded in Chattogram
- The Office of Professional Development hosted its third roundtable discussion titled 'Closing the skills gap: Preparing the next generation for an uncertain job market'
- The three-day Youth Leadership Summit 2018 with the theme 'Desh Amar Dayitto Amar' was held

# YEAR IN REVIEW



- BYLC launched the Youth Manifesto 2019 website
- The twenty-first APL workshop was held in Chattogram



- BYLC's first Social Leadership Hackathon took place in Chattogram




- BYLC concluded the twentieth BBLT program
- The twenty-second APL workshop was held in Dhaka
- The thirteenth BBLTJ program commenced
- The fourteenth BBLTJ program commenced
- The graduation ceremony for BBLT 18 and 20, and BBLTJ 11 and 12 was organized




# OUTREACH AND ADMISSIONS IN 2018

BYLC maintains an inclusive and robust marketing and admissions process to attract high quality applications to our leadership programs. To ensure diversity and high quality applications, we reach out to young people of different ages through various channels, including workshops in school and university campuses. Applicants are then put through a rigorous admissions process, which evaluates them on their existing skills and leadership potential.

## OUTREACH

**51** Campus Ambassadors operating in 

**36** Schools, colleges, universities, and madrassas 


**42** Leadership and professional development workshops conducted at

**42** Institutions reached

**3594** students 

Number of subscribers

 **2900**

 **1292**

Number of followers on

 **366,000**  **3140**  **1305**  **13,749**

Press Mentions

 **83**

## ADMISSION

**3615** applications checked 

**1964** number of people interviewed 

**684** number of people admitted 

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Roundtable discussion on 'Reimagining education for a rapidly changing world' in Chattogram with 17 principals
- Roundtable discussion on 'Closing the skills gap: Preparing the next generation for an uncertain job market' with HR professionals
- Youth-led roundtable discussions on gender equality, education, quota reform, and engaging youth in politics with BYLC graduates
- 'Running with Purpose' 5k run to raise awareness on the importance of safe spaces for youth in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports

# PROGRAMS

**BUILDING  
BRIDGES THROUGH  
LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING**

**BUILDING  
BRIDGES THROUGH  
LEADERSHIP  
TRAINING  
JUNIOR**

National workshop on  
**THE ART AND  
PRACTICE OF  
LEADERSHIP**

**YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
SUMMIT 2018**

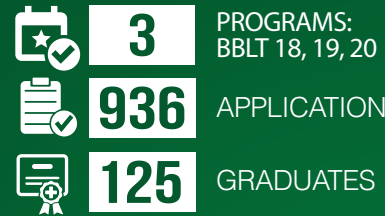
# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

BYLC's ten-week long signature leadership training program is designed for H.S.C./Alim/A levels and first and second year university students. The BBLT program uses a competitive selection process to enroll 42 students from the three different educational systems, namely English medium, Bangla medium, and madrassa, in equal numbers. The curriculum for the program draws heavily from leadership courses taught at Harvard University. The intensive training program, coupled with an experiential learning model, challenges students to critically think about leadership and apply their skills to effectuate positive change in society. In the first phase of the program, students conduct experiments, take risks, and question deeply held assumptions in the classroom. In the second phase, students have the opportunity to translate their learning into action by implementing various community service projects.

## OBJECTIVES

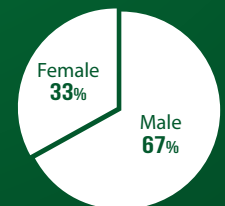
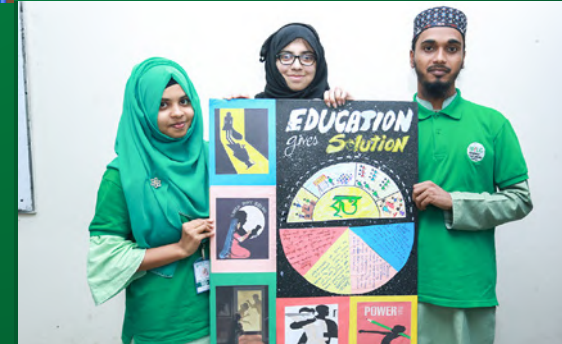
- Create a space for students from diverse educational backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue and action to foster cross-cutting connections, pluralism, and inclusive leadership
- Expand participants' leadership capacity by sharpening their critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills
- Provide participants with concrete experience in teamwork and project management, community service, and active citizenship

## BBLT IN 2018



BANGLA MEDIUM	<b>63</b>
ENGLISH MEDIUM	<b>8</b>
MADRASSA	<b>53</b>

**6375** HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



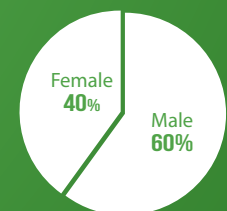
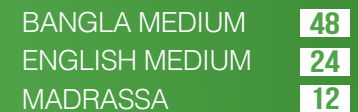
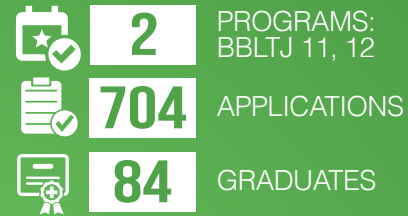
# BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH LEADERSHIP TRAINING JUNIOR

A month-long program designed for secondary school students in grades 6 to 10. The program, adapted to suit the learning needs of students aged between 12 and 16, focuses on sensitizing a younger audience to the values of leadership, teamwork, community service, and active citizenship. Taught by BYLC graduates, the program specifically targets students in secondary school to instill positive values during their formative years, so that these lessons of leadership and building bridges remain influential throughout their lives.

## OBJECTIVES

- Promote pluralism by encouraging participants from diverse backgrounds to identify common ground and develop a shared vision for effectuating positive change
- Provide participants with a concrete understanding of the challenges and rewards associated with leadership
- Create opportunities for BBLT graduates to further develop their leadership skills by teaching leadership to secondary school students

## ««« BBLTJ IN 2018



National workshop on

# THE ART AND PRACTICE OF LEADERSHIP

The Art and Practice of Leadership (APL) is a three-day national workshop for third and fourth year undergraduate students, and first or second year full-time master's students (who have completed their bachelor's degree not more than two years ago) from any accredited university in Bangladesh. The workshop provides participants with an exceptional opportunity to learn about leadership, communication, and career development. The participants embark on a stimulating personal journey that develops their leadership potential and helps them gain new competencies to better compete in the job market.

## OBJECTIVES

- Prepare students for the challenges of a competitive job market in a rapidly changing world
- Encourage participants to step out of their comfort zone and expand their capacity to address complex challenges
- Increase participants' capacity to diagnose a social system and lead courageously in times of uncertainty, change, and conflict



## APL IN 2018



3

PROGRAMS:  
APL 20, 21, 22



439

APPLICATIONS



168

GRADUATES



LEADERSHIP  
AND INNOVATION



COMMUNICATION  
AND PERSUASION



GROUP DYNAMICS  
AND TEAMWORK



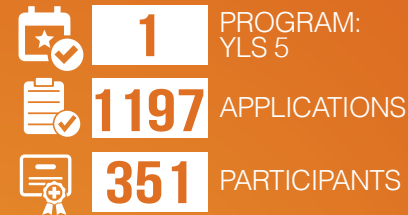
# YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The three-day Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) focuses on the core challenges encountered by youth leaders. Through a competitive screening process, YLS brings a diverse group of young delegates from around the country together with distinguished experts, innovators, and leaders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors for a journey of collective exploration, reflection, and networking. The summit features a mix of plenaries and panels on entrepreneurship, global citizenship, education and career, gender and leadership, politics, and innovation. Team-building activities and reflection sessions give delegates opportunities to deepen their understanding of effective, meaningful, and inclusive leadership.

## OBJECTIVES

- Understand the concerns and perspective of youth regarding pressing national issues
- Create a common space for an inter-generational dialogue and knowledge sharing
- Facilitate leadership training for youth and enable them to take ownership of problems and exercise leadership in uncertain times
- Create a safe space for young people to engage in productive debates and discussions on current issues

## YLS IN 2018



With the theme 'Desh Amar Dayitto Amar', YLS 2018 focused on young people's role in public service and politics. In preparation for the summit, BYLC conducted the Youth Matters Survey to understand the issues that are important for youth and their priorities for development. The manifesto themes, panel discussion topics and speakers, and leadership sessions centered around the survey findings.

Through the Youth Leadership Summit 2018, BYLC created a platform for youth to drive conversations on national development with a focus on democratic participation. Over the three days of the YLS, the delegates co-created the Youth Manifesto to begin a structured process to voice their demands and engage in policy making.



# YOUTH MANIFESTO 2019-2023

At the three-day YLS 2018, a platform was created for youth to drive conversations on national development with a focus on democratic participation. In preparation for the YLS, BYLC conducted the Youth Matters Survey, collecting insights of over 3000 young people, to identify and address the issues that are important for youth and their priorities for development. Over the three days, 350 students and young professionals between the ages of 18 and 30 co-created the Youth Manifesto to begin a structured process to voice their demands and engage in domestic politics.

The Youth Manifesto will be disseminated among major political parties of the country to ensure that youth voices are heard and acted upon at the highest policy-making levels in our country. We will actively engage with the new government to implement some of the issues that have been highlighted in the manifesto. The issues addressed in this manifesto include education, employment, social inclusion, and social justice.



## ««« SURVEY FINDINGS



3167

RESPONDENTS

### Areas the youth want government to focus on

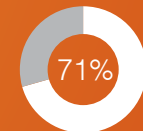
- Reforming education curricula
- Creating employment opportunities
- Taking action against corruption in institutions
- Increasing civic participation of youth

### Top four challenges faced by youth are

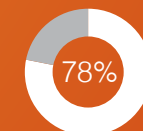
- Lack of quality education and skills development opportunities
- Absence of sufficient work opportunities
- Corruption in public and private institutions
- Exclusion from civic participation



### Youth have a positive outlook



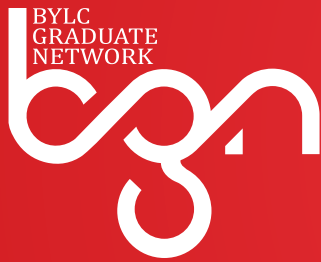
are hopeful about Bangladesh's future



feel that they can influence national policy



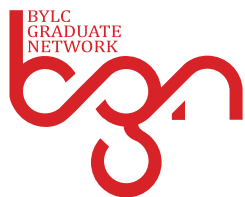
# ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT





# BYLC GRADUATE NETWORK (BGN)

BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) is an alumni association governed by an elected board of BYLC graduates. It aims to create an enabling platform for graduates to stay connected and support each other in exercising leadership for individual and community development. BGN organizes networking events, speaker series, and sport leagues as part of its outreach activities.



## ◀◀◀ BGN IN 2018



In 2018, BGN organized several recreational programs, awareness raising initiatives, and social events:

- BGN Run in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rangpur, Pabna, and Rajshahi to promote healthy living
- 'Desh Amar Dayitto Amar' photo exhibition in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram and Dinajpur to promote a positive image of Bangladesh
- BGN Cricket League with 10 teams
- Awareness sessions for rural teenagers in Barisal and Dinajpur on social issues such as early marriage and drug addiction
- BGN Adda event bringing together graduates of different batches
- BGN Iftar in Dhaka and Chattogram
- Higher studies information session for Madrasa students at EMK Center

# BYLC OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (OPD)

The Office of Professional Development (OPD) aims to provide BYLC graduates with the best in-class professional development training and placement services. The OPD program also works to connect BYLC graduates with leading employers across Bangladesh.

OPD organizes annual roundtable discussions to engage in conversation with employers to identify the problems that exist in the job market. Assessing the recommendations from roundtable discussions, OPD seeks to update the existing curriculum, design new courses, and create awareness about identified issues. The third roundtable discussion, organized in partnership with The Daily Star, focused on 'Closing the skills gap: Preparing the next generation for an uncertain job market'. 18 HR professionals from various sectors, were invited to talk about the changing job market and how fresh graduates can adapt to these proposed changes.

## OPD IN 2018



13

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED



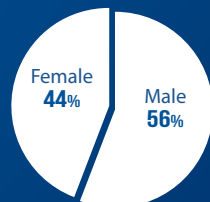
820+

BYLC GRADUATES TRAINED AND MENTORED



250+

BYLC GRADUATES PLACED IN JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS



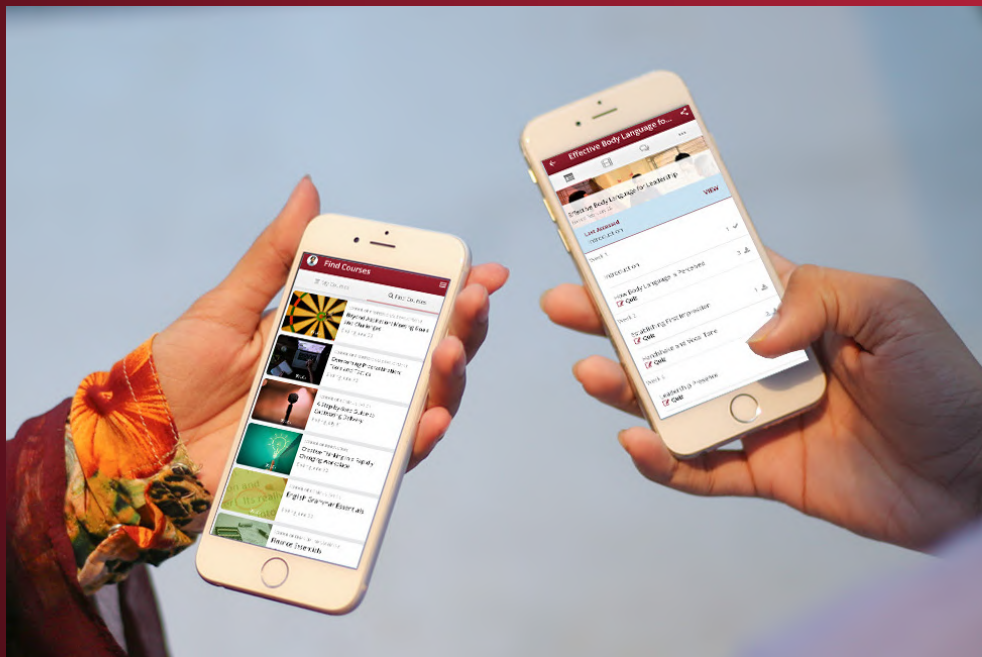
# EDTECH

## BYLCx

BYLCx, the online learning academy of BYLC, provides online learning to equip young people with leadership, professional development and 21st century skills, and enable them to have high impact in public, private, and civil sectors.

In 2018, BYLCx launched 25 courses for students to develop 21st century skills. Anyone can browse the courses from any part of the country.

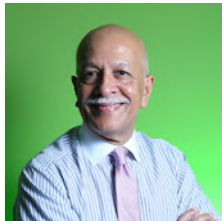
BYLCx can be accessed online at: [x.bylc.org](http://x.bylc.org)



## ConnectEd

ConnectEd is an online platform where BYLC graduates will get the exceptional opportunity to showcase their professional profiles directly to potential employers for future prospects. The platform will also give access to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on professional development and leadership taught by experienced instructors. ConnectEd comes with new features to make a strong connection between employers and BYLC graduates.

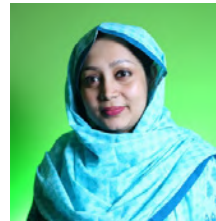
# GOVERNING BOARD



**Akhter Matin Chaudhury**

Chairperson

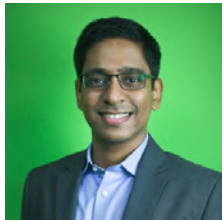
Akhter Matin Chaudhury is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries of Bangladesh.



**Homayara Ahmed**

Member

Homayara Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, is an expert on human resource management.



**Ejaj Ahmad**

Founder and President

Ejaj Ahmad is a social entrepreneur with extensive professional and academic training in leadership. He is the recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowship, and Harvard Kennedy School's Rising Star Award. Currently, he serves as an honorary fellow at the School of Management at University of St. Andrews.



**Manzoor Hasan OBE**

Member

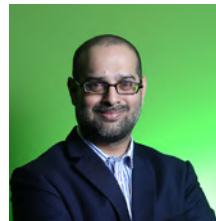
Manzoor Hasan OBE, a barrister, is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University (Bangladesh), and Chair of the United Nation Convention Against Corruption Coalition (Germany). He was previously the Founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



**Pial Islam**

Member

Pial Islam, Founder and Managing Partner of pi Strategy Consulting, was previously a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum.



**Zafar Sobhan**

Member

Zafar Sobhan, Editor of Dhaka Tribune, is a 2009 Yale World Fellow and a 2005 Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.



**Saima Chowdhury**

Member

Saima Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of Noi Solutions LLC, a global apparel sourcing company based out of New York. Noi Solutions ranked 300 in the 2014 Inc. 500 list of the fastest growing private companies in the US.

# INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD



**Sultana Afroz**

Member

Sultana Afroz, a career bureaucrat, is presently an Additional Secretary at the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh.



**Barbara Kellerman**

Member

Barbara Kellerman, James McGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the Founding Executive Director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Ronald Heifetz**

Member

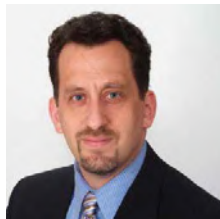
Ronald Heifetz, King Hussein bin Talal Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, was the Founding Director of the Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership.



**Gowher Rizvi**

Member

Gowher Rizvi, Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is the immediate past Director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



**Max Klau**

Member

Max Klau, a developmental psychologist with an experience in leadership in complex systems, is presently the Chief Program Officer at New Politics Leadership Academy, an organization dedicated to recruiting and training alumni of service programs (the military, AmeriCorps, TFA, City Year, Peace Corps, and related experiences) for a career in public service.